

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 002043

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/WE AND OES/HEALTH
STATE FOR OES/EID NANCY CARTER-FOSTER
STATE ALSO PASS NSF/GOMBAY
HHS FOR STEIGER OGHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO FR](#)

SUBJECT: AIDS: FRENCH/US COLLABORATION "ESSENTIAL"

1. Summary. EST Counselor met with Michel Kazatchkine, head of the National Agency for AIDS Research (ANRS) on March 24, shortly after Dr Kazatchkine's nomination as "Ambassador at large for AIDS." The meeting focused on France's involvement in global AIDS activities and ANRS's research in developing countries. He emphasized President Chirac's total commitment to this subject and indicated that enhancing French/U.S. cooperation in this sector is for the GOF "a top priority." Kazatchkine will depart ANRS in June 2005. His possible replacement has not been named. End summary.

Enhance French/U.S. collaborative activities

2. Dr Michel Kazatchkine, the director of ANRS (since 1998), was appointed Ambassador for HIV/AIDS issues in February 2005. Commenting on his new mission, Kazatchkine stated that one of his first priorities, as defined by President Chirac, is to keep and reinforce the on-going dialogue with the U.S. He noted that France and the U.S. play leadership roles on the AIDS issue and globally think basically the same way about the necessity to promote prevention and treatment. He praised U.S. (NIH) research in the AIDS sector and the "excellent" French/U.S. collaborative work conducted in the areas of vaccine trials, immunotherapy, and more informal basic research. As ANRS Director, he has been thrilled by the participation of U.S. top scientists in the peer review of ANRS-funded research programs.

3. U.S. contribution to Global AIDS: Kazatchkine noted that people in France are not fully aware of the scope of U.S. HIV/AIDS initiatives--which go far beyond the PEPFAR program, and suggested that more information work might be done to ensure that the U.S. receives greater credit for its contribution to Global AIDS. He also insisted on the need to "pull efforts together" to avoid duplication of initiatives in the developing world, which he considers as sometimes confusing and detrimental for the recipient countries and eventually prejudicial for the (AIDS) international cooperation image.

4. Intensify French-U.S. dialogue/focal points: Speaking both as ANRS Director and Ambassador for AIDS, Kazatchkine expressed a desire to seize every opportunity for meetings between French and U.S. senior AIDS officials. He said he will personally welcome and encourage such opportunities. Taking into consideration Chirac's strong personal commitment to Global AIDS, he recommended as other key contacts on the French side:
- President Chirac's technical adviser (G8/multilateral affairs) Laurent Vigier; and
- Xavier Darcos, Minister delegate for Cooperation, Development and Francophony (within the MFA).

Biosketch

5. Michel KAZATCHKINE, 58, graduated as an MD from Paris VII University and specialized in internal medicine, nephrology and immunology. After completing doctoral training at St Mary Hospital Medical School in London and at the department of immunology and rheumatology at Harvard University, he returned to France to work and teach as a clinical immunologist at the Broussais hospital in Paris. He currently serves as Head of the department of immunology at the Georges Pompidou European hospital in Paris. Doctor Kazatchkine has authored or co-authored over 500 publications.

6. International experience. At the head of ANRS since 1998, Kazatchkine has committed himself to ensure AIDS treatment access in the developing world. The ANRS programs of which he has been a part constitute 25 percent of the agency's activity. He has also been active at the international level: in 2002, he was appointed as member of the Technical Review Panel of the Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. He also chaired the WHO Strategic and Technology Advisor Committee for HIV/AIDS from

2002 to 2004.

17. Comment. Dr Kazatchkine is highly regarded in the French and international medical community. He is thoroughly enthusiastic about his new assignment. Taking into account his knowledge of U.S. and international AIDS-related institutions and key players, the strong links already built up with U.S. scientists and official key players in the field, he should prove an invaluable partner in promoting French/U.S. collaborative work.

18. Future Vice-Chairman of the Fund? Kazatchkine also informed EST officers that he is a candidate for vice-chairmanship of the Global Fund and is extremely appreciative of U.S. support.
Wolff